

Message Text

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12

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

AID-20 EB-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EA-11 RSR-01 /123 R

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4/5/73, EXT 22307

APPROVED BY S/ S - MR. BARNES

NEA/ INS: DTSCHNEIDER

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R 070102 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 064731

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CE

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR KANAKARATNE CALL ON UNDER SECRETARY
PORTER

1. SUMMARY: DURING CORDIAL INITIAL CALL APRIL 5
DISCUSSION COVERED WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS INCLUDING US/
SRI LANKA RELATIONS, CEYLONese ECONOMIC SITUATION, AND
SITUATION IN SOUTH ASIA. KANAKARATNE EXPRESSED HOPE
AMB. PORTER WOULD FIND OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT SRI LANKA.
END SUMMARY.

2. AMB. PORTER LED OFF BY NOTING OUR SATISFACTION WITH
FAVORABLE TREND IN OUR RELATIONS. KANAKARATNE ECHOED
THIS DESCRIBING RELATIONS AS " WARM AND FRIENDLY" AND
NOTING ONE PREVIOUS DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US, OUR RESPECTIVE
APPROACHES TO PRC, HAD DIMINISHED. PORTER RESPONDED THAT
WE BELIEVE WE HAVE DEMONSTRATED WE ARE BIG ENOUGH TO ALLOW
FOR DIFFERENCES OF VIEW AND SAID OUR BASIC APPROACH TO
SRI LANKA IS TO WISH IT WELL AND TO HELP WHERE WE CAN.
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3. IN RESPONSE TO UNDER SECRETARY' S QUESTIONS ON THE CEYLONENE ECONOMY, KANAKARATNE PROVIDED RUNDOWN OF GSL' S PROBLEMS COVERING CLOSURE OF SUEZ AND INCREASED SHIPPING COSTS, ADVERSE TERMS OF TRADE, FOREIGN EXCHANGE CRISIS AND LACK OF COORDINATION BETWEEN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND DEVELOPMENT NEEDS. KANAKARATNE ALSO REVIEWED GSL' S EFFORTS TO SOLVE PROBLEMS THROUGH IMPORT SUBSTITUTION AND DIVERSIFICATION OF ECONOMY. HE NOTED SOMEWHAT WRYLY, HOWEVER, THAT PLANS WHICH LOOK GOOD ON PAPER DON' T ALWAYS WORK OUT AS EXPECTED. KANAKARATNE SAID US HAS BEEN VERY HELPFUL BOTH WITH BILATERAL AID AND IN PERSUADING OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN AID GROUP. ALSO NOTED THAT WHEN VIOLENCE HAD ERUPTED IN 1971 US HAD AGAIN BEEN HELPFUL. AMB. PORTER REAFFIRMED OUT INTENTION TO BE HELPFUL WHENEVER WE CAN.

4. IN RESPONSE TO KANAKARATNE' S REQUEST FOR ASSESSMENT OF SOUTH ASIAN SITUATION UNDER SECRETARY RESPONDED THAT IN LOOKING AT SITUATION, IT APPEARED TO HIM THAT PROBLEMS ARE NOT INSOLUBLE. ALL PARTIES SEEM TO RECOGNIZE THAT IT IS IN THEIR INTERESTS TO WORK OUT AGREEMENT. THIS MIGHT REQUIRE CAREFUL TIMING AS ALL PRINCIPALS HAVE THEIR POSITIONS TO WORRY ABOUT BUT WE WOULD BE FAIRLY OPTIMISTIC OVER PROSPECTS FOR IMPROVING SITUATION. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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